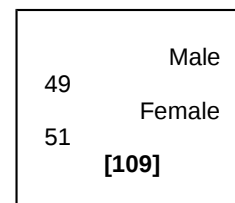


1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 510 adults
Dates: December 19, 1998



FINAL

Study #5080r
NBC Clinton Impeachment
December 19, 1998

EMBARGOED BY NBC UNTIL 6:30 P.M.

*The margin of error for
510 interviews is $\pm 4.5\%$*

- In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing as president? [138]

<i>December 1998</i>												<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>
	<u>19th</u>	<u>15th</u>	<u>3rd-6th</u>	<u>10/98+</u>	<u>9/98</u>	<u>7/98</u>	<u>6/98</u>	<u>4/98</u>	<u>2/98</u>	<u>1/98</u>	<u>12/97</u>	<u>10/98+</u>	<u>6/93</u>
Approve.....	72	68	65	68	66	64	63	66	66	62	59	68	41
Disapprove.....	25	28	31	29	31	30	30	29	28	30	33	29	50
Not sure.....	3	4	4	3	3	6	7	5	6	8	8	3	9

+ Asked only of registered voters

- As you may know, today the U.S. House of Representatives voted to impeach President Clinton and send the matter to the U.S. Senate for trial. Do you support or oppose the House of Representatives passing articles of impeachment and sending the matter to the Senate for trial?*

	<u>12/19/98</u>	<u>12/16/98</u>	<u>12/15/98</u>	<u>12/3-6/98</u>	
Support.....	43	40	43	36	[139]
Oppose.....	55	57	55	61	
Not sure.....	2	3	2	3	

*Previously this question read "Do you favor or oppose the House of Representatives passing articles of impeachment and sending the matter to the Senate for trial" **

- Now that the House of Representatives has passed articles of impeachment against President Clinton and sent the matter to the U.S. Senate, what do you think the U.S. Senate should do?
 - Drop the matter entirely
 - Hold a trial to determine whether or not to remove President Clinton from office OR
 - Negotiate a compromise such as censure or a fine

A--Drop the matter entirely..... 21 **[140]**

B--Hold a trial.....	35
C--Negotiate a compromise.....	40
Other (VOL).....	2
Not sure.....	2

4. Now that the House of Representatives voted in favor of sending articles of impeachment to the Senate, do you think that President Clinton should resign from office to avoid a Senate trial, or do you think that he should remain in office and take his case to the Senate?*

	<u>12/19</u>		<u>12/15</u>	
Should resign.....	34	CONTINUE	44	[141]
Should remain in office.....	62	SKIP TO	51	
Not sure.....	4	Q.5b	5	

*Previously this question read: "If the House of Representatives votes in favor of having an impeachment trial in the Senate, do you think that President Clinton should resign from office to avoid a Senate trial, or do you think that he should remain in office and take his case to the Senate?"

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO THINK PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD RESIGN IN Q4.)

- 5a. Which of the following do you think best describes why you think President Clinton should resign? (ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

The country would be spared a trial in the U.S. Senate.....	15	[142]
The President's ability to lead would be impaired by a Senate trial.....	10	
The President broke the law and should stand trial.....	58	
He is doing a bad job as president.....	4	
All (VOL).....	10	
None/other (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	-	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO THINK PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE IN Q4.)

- 5b. Which of the following reasons best describes why you think President Clinton should not resign from office? (ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

The President did not commit an impeachable offense.....	24	[143]
The impeachment proceedings were a partisan and unfair process.....	15	
The President's resignation would create instability in a time of crisis.....	13	
The President's resignation would set a bad precedent for the nation.....	5	
He is doing a good job as president.....	25	
All (VOL).....	10	
None/other (VOL).....	8	
Not sure.....	-	

6. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about having an impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate?

Statement A: An impeachment trial will hurt the nation, because things will not get done and will become too partisan and polarized.

Statement B: An impeachment trial will not hurt the nation, because things will continue to get done and we will be able to work through our differences.

Statement A/will hurt nation.....	56	[144]
Statement B/will not hurt nation.....	39	
Neither (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	2	

7. The Speaker-designate of the House of Representatives, Bob Livingston, today announced that, because of the disclosure of his extramarital affairs, he would resign his office. He challenged President Clinton to follow his example and resign also. Does the fact that Livingston resigned make you more likely or no more likely to feel that President Clinton should resign?

More likely.....	15	[145]
No more likely.....	82	
Not sure.....	3	

8. Do you think that the U.S. should continue bombing Iraq until Saddam Hussein is removed from power?

Yes, should continue bombing.....	65	[146]
No, should not continue bombing.....	23	
Not sure.....	12	

FACTUALS: Now I have a few more questions for statistical purposes only.

- F1. How old are you? (IF REFUSED, ASK:) Well, can you tell me which age group you belong to? Are you in the age group:

18-24.....	9	[147-148]
25-29.....	8	
30-34.....	9	
35-39.....	11	
40-44.....	13	
45-49.....	10	
50-54.....	10	
55-59.....	7	
60-64.....	6	
65 and over.....	15	
Refused.....	2	

- F2 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?

(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? (IF NOT SURE, CODE AS "NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN.")

(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat.....	21	[149]
Not very strong Democrat.....	9	
Independent/lean Democrat.....	10	
Strictly independent.....	22	
Independent/lean Republican.....	8	
Not very strong Republican.....	10	
Strong Republican.....	12	
Other.....	5	
Not sure/nothing.....	3	

F3. Did you watch or listen to any part of the impeachment proceedings today?

Yes.....	63	[150]
No.....	36	
Not sure.....	1	

F4. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$20,000.....	10	[151]
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	15	
Between \$30,000 and \$50,000.....	25	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	20	
More than \$75,000.....	19	
Not sure/refused.....	11	

F5. Finally, are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background? (IF "NO," ASK:) What is your race -- white, black, Asian, or something else?

Hispanic.....	6	[152]
White.....	77	
Black.....	10	
Asian.....	3	
Other.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	2	